Doubling of bilateral trade by India and America

†*313. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the failure of most of the world-level talks under World Trade Organisation, India and America have decided to double the present level of foreign trade by the year 2008 in the bilateral talks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether those industries where trade is to be increased, have been identified; and

(d) if so, the names of such industries and the target set for increasing the trade of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Discussions on the expansion of India-US bilateral trade are held independent of the outcome of multilateral talks under the WTO. The India-US Trade Policy Forum, which had its first meeting in New Delhi on November 12, 2005, has been designed to act as a forum for taking up issues relating to the expansion of bilateral trade and investment relations between India and the United States. Tariff and non-tariff barriers, agriculture, investment, services, intellectual property and the Doha Round were taken up for discussion during the meeting of the Forum. A doubling of bilateral trade in about three years' time was also discussed. However, no specific industry- wise targets have been set for increasing bilateral trade.

Setting up an inter-State Secretary level advisory group to frame the guidelines for NEG Act

*314. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has announced the setting up of an inter-State Secretary level advisory group to frame the guidelines for National Employment Guarantee Act;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.